



“Steal the Vote”

Unpacking the myth of Voter Integrity

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Summary

Voter integrity is described as any attempt to undermine or manipulate the electoral process. My research is dedicated to the recent accusations of the 2020 presidential election being stolen, and the controversy of *Voter Integrity*. I have decided to shine light on the very conversation that is often had in political debates. Voter fraud and election integrity have many correlations. My research presents data that shows voter fraud not being a prominent issue as the media reflects, as it seems to be more of a partisan issue. The research presented will exemplify be aspect in addressing the issue of this myth so we can move towards implementing more confidence in citizens to increase higher voter turn out rates.

Hypothesis

- Voter fraud does in fact exist, however the numbers are not as large as we presume.
- It is more of a partisan issue that the media uses as a political agenda,
- ultimately diminishing the confidence in voters especially in marginalized groups.

Method: Quantitative Data

Figure 1: Differences in Media Sources

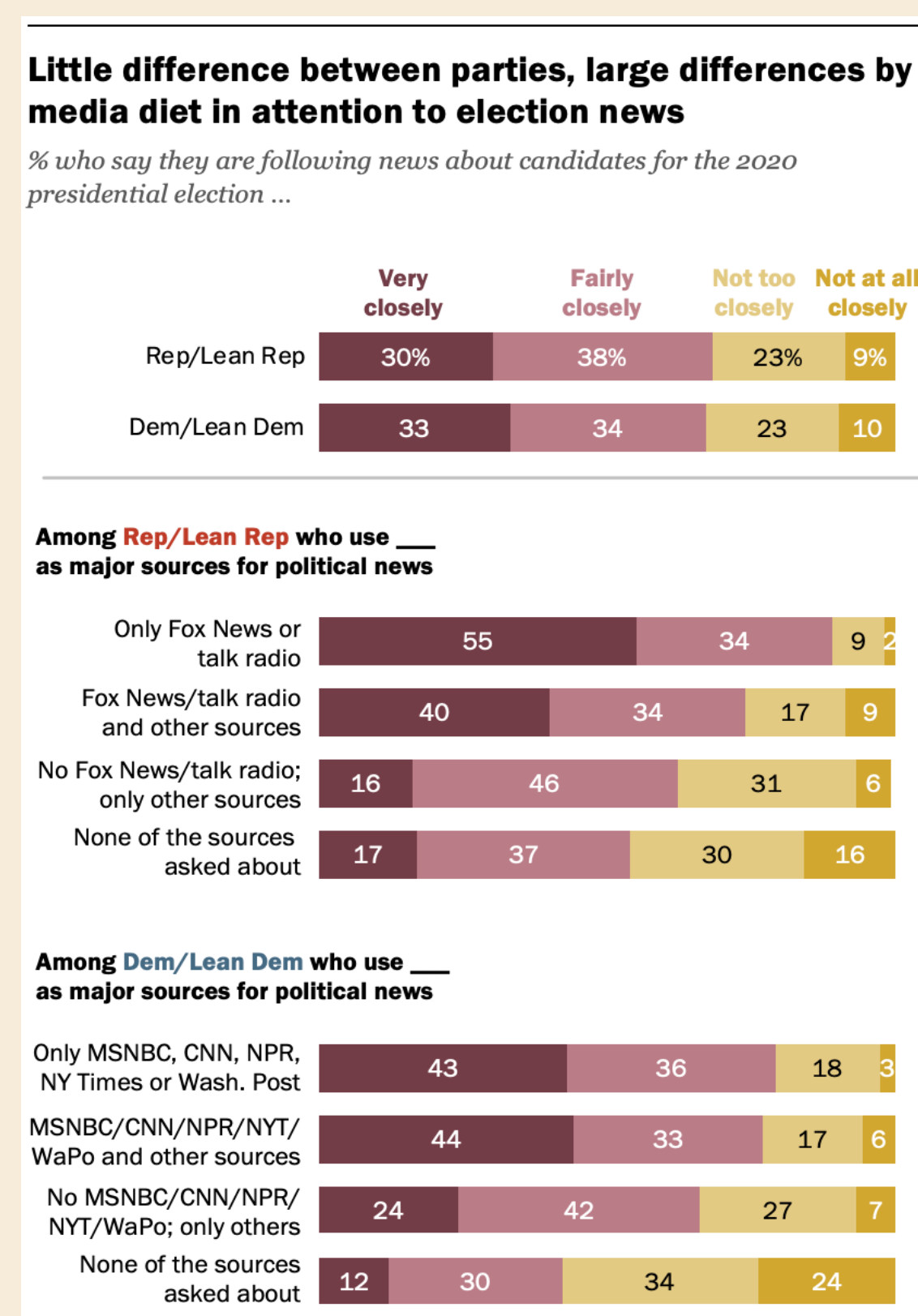
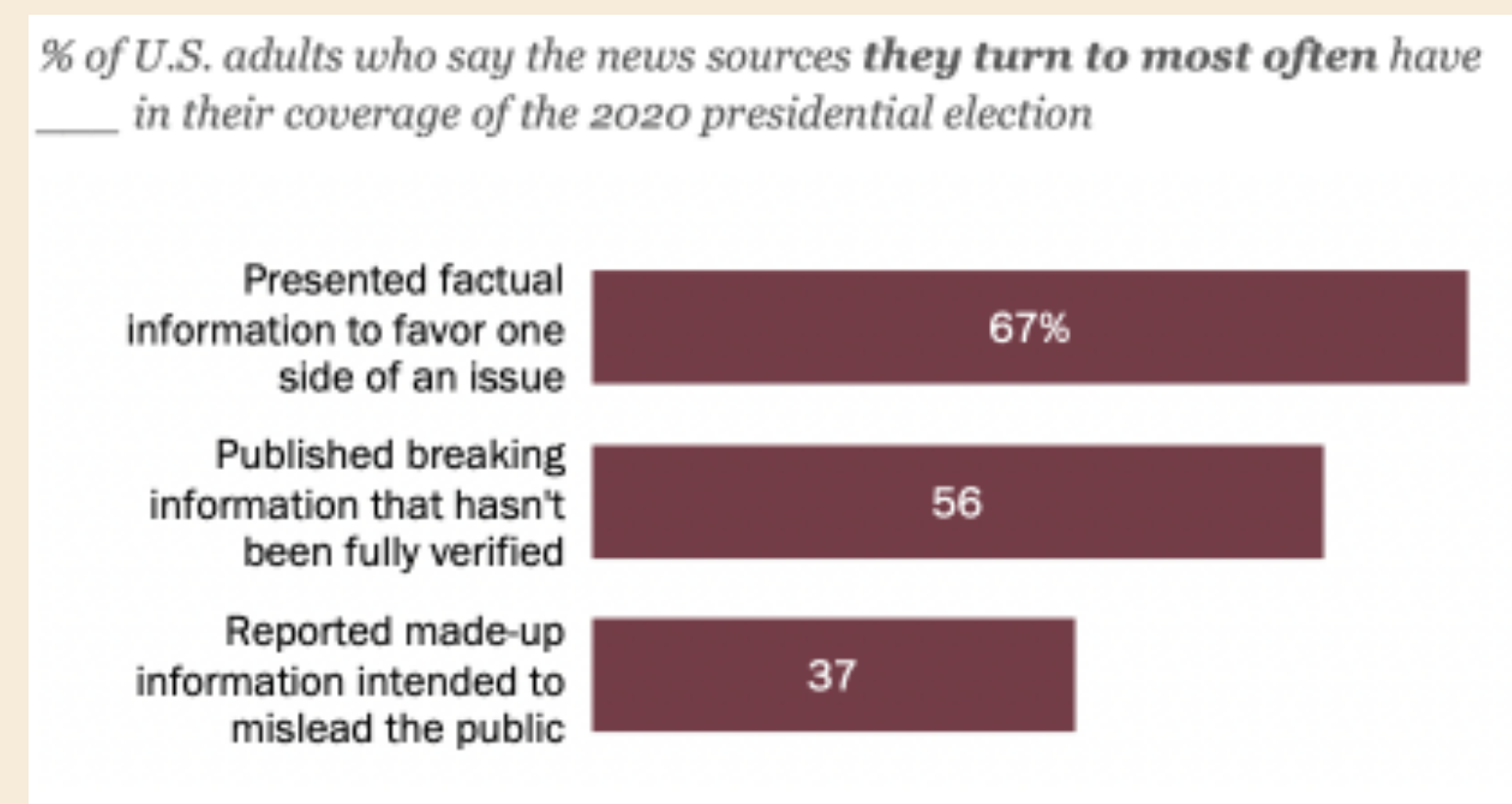


Figure 1: shows data according to pew research, 55% of voters that are republican or leaning republican use either Fox News or talk radio shows if not any to closely monitor their candidates. Among democrats or leaning democrats 43% of voters use major sources such as MSNBC, CNN, NY Times, Washington Post and other left-leaning media sources to monitor their candidate. Voters are more likely to follow the sources that line up with their

Inferential Statistics

Figure 2: Media Bias Based on Partisanship

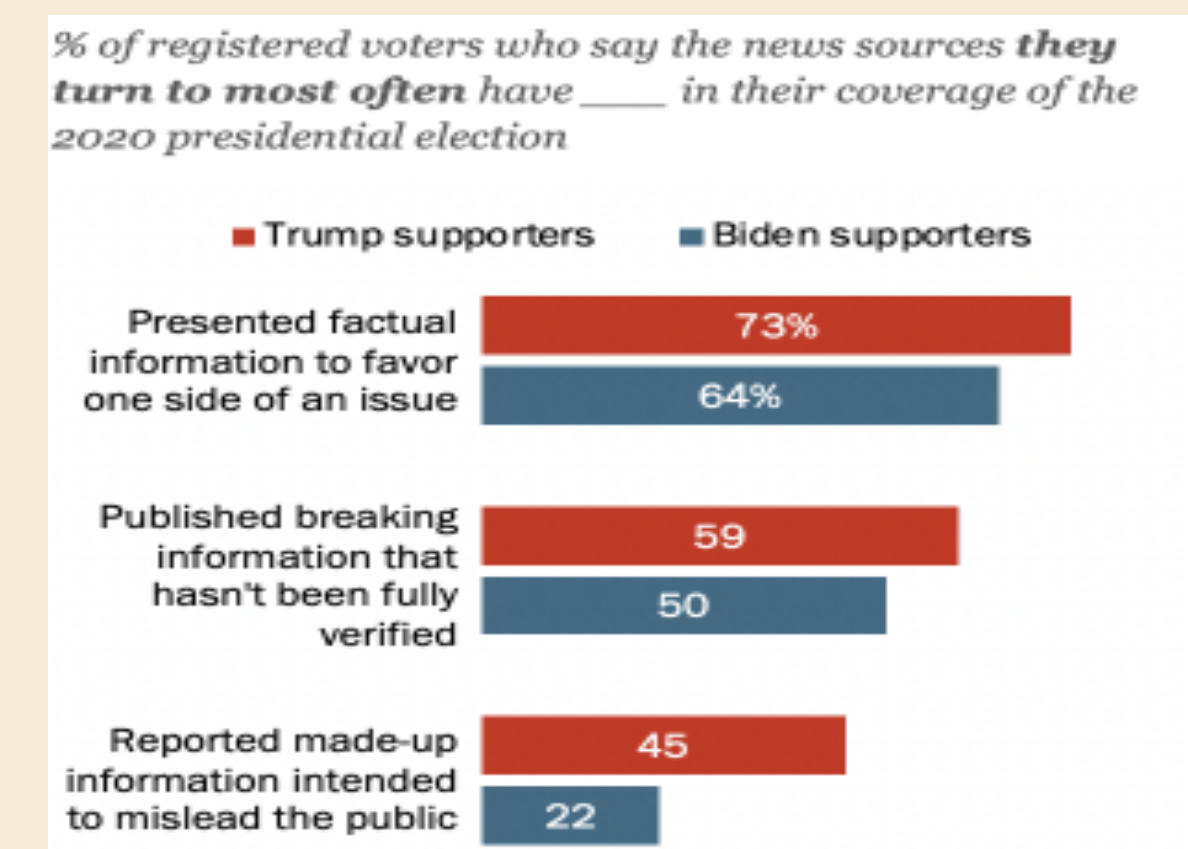


Actual Prosecuted Voter Fraud Offenses

Although there are many perspectives of voter fraud depending on what media sources you are viewing, most can agree that it is a present issue. The argument is weather or not it is as prominent as it is presented to us. Research shows that most are concerned with voter fraud in the perspective that citizens are most likely to commit this crime. As the data show, the answer would be no. According to The Heritage Foundation, in total there are about 1,300 proven Cases of Voter Fraud in America. Also noting that the proven cases is based off sampling and not a comprehensive list. Furthermore, in the Brennan Center's seminal report "The truth about voter fraud" found that impersonations are very rare. Incident reports were found to range anywhere between 2.5% and 3%. Mostly tracing back to other sources such as clerical errors and bad data matching practices.

Conclusions

Figure 3: Media Bias & Marginalized Voters



- In conclusion, voter fraud does exist but as stated before the numbers are not as large is people presume them to be. Data showed a large gap in media bias depending on the source. In one survey (figure 2) 56% percent (more than half) of U.S adults believed news sources they followed closely presented breaking information that had not been fully verified.
- Figure 4: shows Black voters were less likely to vote by mail than Hispanic, White and Asian voters. This research is vital because while in a pandemic many voters had to rely on voting by mail, while some decided to not vote at all in fear of the lack of voter integrity. Most of our information comes from the news sources we watch and listen to which overall shape and mold our political ideals. Which is why it is important that we address the factual data so that we may restore confidence in citizens when it comes to electing our representatives. Being able to instill confidence can help increase higher voter turn out rates.

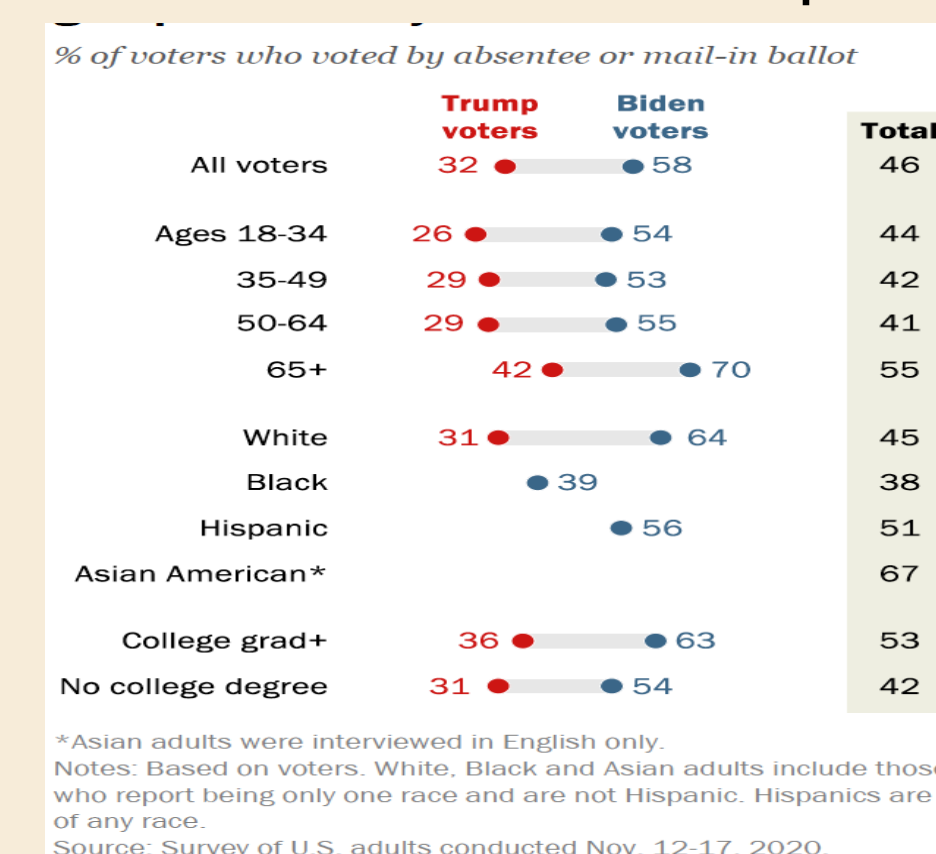


Figure 4:

Poster created by Kierra N. Green B.A Political Science Student at UT Tyler
References: Spakovsky, Hans A. von. The Heritage Foundation, October 6, 2020. <https://www.heritage.org/>.

Shearer, Elisa. Pew Research Center. Pew Research Center, November 2, 2020. <https://www.pewresearch.org/>.